

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
20508**

---

USTR PRESS RELEASES ARE AVAILABLE ON THE USTR WEBSITE AT [WWW.USTR.GOV](http://WWW.USTR.GOV).

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
OCTOBER 5, 2000**

**00 -68  
CONTACT: BRENDAN DALY  
AMY STILWELL  
TODD GLASS  
(202) 395-3230**

**CARIBBEAN BASIN TRADE PARTNERSHIP ACT:  
CUSTOMS PROCEDURES DESIGNATION**

The Office of the United States Trade Representative has determined that 10 Beneficiary Countries of the Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBTPA) have implemented or demonstrated substantial progress towards implementing certain customs procedures required by the Act. The countries -- Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, and Panama -- are now fully eligible for the preferential trade provisions of the CBTPA. The determination, which has an effective date of October 2, 2000, will be published in a forthcoming *Federal Register* notice.

This determination follows President Clinton's October 2 decision to declare all 24 current countries of the Caribbean Basin Initiative as "Beneficiary Countries" under the CBTPA. In addition to this Presidential eligibility designation, and in order for the new trade benefits to be in effect for specific countries, the CBTPA requires an additional determination that countries have implemented or are making substantial progress towards implementing certain customs procedures based on those contained in the NAFTA. The President's October 2 Proclamation delegated authority for these additional determinations to USTR.

"The CBI program is a successful example of how trade can foster development, enhance competitiveness, and strengthen relations between countries," said United States Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky. "Enactment of the CBTPA last spring represented the fulfillment of a long-sought objective of updating the CBI program to reflect current realities of trade in our region, and to help countries prepare for the opportunities and challenges in the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA)."

Further designations under the CBTPA's customs procedures may be made in the future, as additional CBTPA Beneficiary Countries satisfy the customs-related criteria established in the Act.

